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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

STAGE SET FOR A MESS-I CUP FINALE

DUTCH OUSTED IN SHOOTOUT VS. ARGENTINA PAGE 18

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe ...

And even she can dine in style PAGE 15

And now for the waiting game

Premier says all the flood-fighting measures are in place as the Assiniboine River crests PAGE 3

Audit up for Justice review

Votes. City hall must regain public trust, says Coun. Orlikow

City council is bringing in sweeping measures in the wake of the release of the real-estate audit, which was the subject of much debate on Wednesday.

Three motions were tabled during a special council meeting: A call for Manitoba Justice to review the EY (formerly Ernst & Young) "Real Estate Management Review"; the creation of an independent fairness commissioner (IFC); and the delegation of authority to the city auditor to bring in another auditing firm, not EY, to implement the recommendations of the EY report.

Council adopted all three motions, as well as the set of 17 recommendations put forward by EY.

Mayor Sam Katz said that though he continues to question why some current and former city employees weren't interviewed, he accepts all of the recommendations.

Mark Single, an EY auditor, responded to councillors' questions for about three hours on Wednesday, and said repeatedly that EY stands by its methodology and results.

He also said there was enough of a paper trail so as to not warrant extra interviews.

Coun. John Orlikow, who put forward the Manitoba Justice motion, said it was about regaining the public's trust.

"I think all Winnipeggers would be very pleased if it comes back, and the review says there's nothing to review here," said Orlikow.

Attorney General Andrew Swan told Metro earlier in the day that if the motion passed, Manitoba Justice would take a look at the report.

The IFC motion states the IFC would "have the power to review all real-estate transactions and management services before they are presented to the standing policy committee and/or council, and that they would report directly to council, via and under the office of the city auditor."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Vote breakdown

- **Motion No. 1 on Manitoba Justice, 8-7.** Against: Mayor Sam Katz, councillors Brian Mayes, Grant Nordman, Mike Pagtakhan, Harvey Smith, Thomas Steen and Devi Sharma.
- **Motion No. 2 on independent fairness commissioner, 12-3.** Against: councillors Mayes, Nordman and Smith.
- **Motion No. 3 on outside auditing firm for implementation, 13-2.** Against: councillors Scott Fielding and Nordman.

Coun. Justin Swandel left the meeting for a scheduled event before the votes took place.

Mark Single, a forensic auditor with EY, listens as a councillor asks him a question during Wednesday's special council meeting on the real-estate audit. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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NEWS 1

City's new open data portal brings info to public fingertips

Online access.
Includes details on city lane closures and councilor and mayor's office expenses

ELISHA DACEY
elisha.dacey@metronews.ca

The City of Winnipeg officially launched its open data portal Tuesday; it's one of the last major Canadian cities to do so.

The portal, which basically contains information already gathered by city administrators, allows anyone with a computer to access that information immediately.

"The new site is a hub where City of Winnipeg data is available to the global, online community in machine-readable format for use by such consumers as researchers and software developers," reads a statement from the city. "The site will enable the Public Service to be more efficient in responding to requests by providing data in a user-friendly, 'self-serve' environment that is open for business 24/7."

Currently, the data available is heavily skewed to old Census data. However, there are a few new elements that weren't easily accessible before, including details on 311 calls, city lane closures and expenses for councillors' and mayor's offices, starting from January of this year.

Notably absent are any sort of crime statistics, which are commonly found at other cities' open data portals. Also, statistics such as mosquito numbers, plowing trucks and other real-time data aren't available.

Mayor Sam Katz promised more data sets to come, but didn't specify which ones.

Mayoral candidate and privacy lawyer Brian Bowman made open data part of his platform a few weeks ago.

"It's a very timid, baby first step," said Bowman of the website launch, noting the culture around releasing information hasn't changed.

"Releasing information to the public should be the norm, the first thing that happens, unless there are valid privacy reasons not to."

The portal can be found at data.winnipeg.ca.

311 calls from January through June, 2014

Ward	311 calls	Residents per call
Charleswood	2,706	15.6
Daniel Mac	3,167	13.9
Elmwood	3,896	10.8
Fort Rouge	3,347	13.4
Mynarski	3,489	11.4
Nor. Kildonan	2,868	12.8
Old Kildonan	3,165	14
Point Douglas	3,141	13.5
River Heights	3,555	13.6
St. Boniface	4,578	10.7
St. Charles	2,044	15.3
St. James	3,818	7.6
St. Norbert	3,386	14.1
St. Vital	3,685	13.5
Transcona	3,415	9.6

The number of 311 calls made per Winnipeg ward, and the number of ward residents per call. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

data.winnipeg.ca

Four things we learned from the City of Winnipeg's new open data portal:

- Between Jan. 1 and July 6 of 2014, the 311 service received 50,816 calls, 25,438 of which were calls for street maintenance such as plowing, potholes and blocked drains. Missed pick-up of garbage, recycling or litter container complaints hit 22,887.
- The ward of St. Boniface made the most calls to 311 during the same time period at 4,578, but St. James-Brooklands residents were the biggest complainers, at one call per 7.6 people. St. Charles residents made the fewest calls (2,044), but Charleswood was the least per capita at one call per 15.6 people.
- 430 streets were closed temporarily from January through June.
- 92 building permits have been issued so far this year for projects over $1 million. The biggest? $44 million for the expansion of the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

Decision delayed on Taras Shevchenko Way

The will to honour Ukrainian national hero Taras Shevchenko may have been at city hall on Tuesday, but a decision on a street renaming was delayed due to financial concerns.

Members of the city's property and development committee postponed until September a decision on whether to rename a stretch of Aberdeen Avenue, from Main Street to the Red River, Taras Shevchenko Way.

Oksana Shulakewych, a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' Taras Shevchenko 200th committee, said generations of Ukrainians brought Shevchenko's writings with them to the prairies.

Shulakewych was one of several representatives of local Ukrainian community groups who spoke in favour of a permanent name change instead of the honorary one being proposed by the city's administration.

Coun. Paula Havixbeck said she was disappointed with the admin's report, for failing to bring forward cost estimates.

Barry Thorgrimson, director of planning, property and development, said the P&D committee could extend the honorary renaming for much longer than the usual five years.

He also said it cost the city $37,000 to cover the costs three businesses incurred from the name change on Milt Stegall Drive.

Taras Shevchenko was a poet, author and painter, and is generally regarded as the father of modern Ukrainian literature. He was born on March 9, 1814.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Winnipeg

Former archbishop sentenced to jail for molesting boy

A former Orthodox priest is appealing his conviction for molesting an altar boy almost 30 years ago.

Seraphim Storheim was sentenced to eight months in jail Wednesday for sexually assaulting a boy who came to visit him in Winnipeg in 1985.

Storheim showed no emotion in court as Justice Christopher Mainella called his actions deplorable and a gross breach of trust.

The Crown had asked for a 12-month jail sentence, arguing Storheim abused a position of trust, but his lawyer argued for a conditional sentence with no jail time.

At the time of the offence, Storheim was a priest in the Orthodox Church in America but later rose to archbishop — the church's highest-ranking cleric in Canada.

Storheim's lawyer, Jeff Gindin, said his client is appealing the conviction and the jail sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of M gym

Victim leads police to man who exposed himself

A man who allegedly performed an indecent act while watching a woman working out at a University of Manitoba gym over the weekend was arrested, after the victim caught him in the same area two days later.

The 22-year-old woman was exercising at a campus fitness facility Sunday night when she noticed a man watching her as he exposed himself and performed an indecent act. The same woman called police Tuesday evening when she again saw the accused near the gym.

METRO

Dikes higher and drier than 2011 flood: Selinger

Confident. Province focusing on ensuring dikes don't break

Kam Blight, Reeve of the RM of Portage la Prairie, talks to reporters Wednesday while Premier Greg Selinger looks on. CHRISD.CA

The Manitoba government appeared confident but cautious Wednesday, as the swollen Assiniboine River crested near Portage La Prairie.

Less than a week after Premier Greg Selinger declared a state of emergency — prompting hundreds of soldiers, crews and others to frantically prepare sandbags and strengthen dikes around communities and rural properties — the premier said all the flood-fighting measures were in place.

"So far, the dikes are looking pretty solid, but they're being monitored 24/7," Selinger said after touring the area.

"Our officials, our engineers ... felt that the dikes are in much better shape than the last time (in 2011). They're drier, they're higher. But again, there could be risks and we can't take anything for granted."

An estimated 720 people have been forced to leave their homes across the province — the vast majority as a precautionary measure due to fears that roads might be swamped. Actual flooding of homes has been "minimal" says the government, which could not provide an exact number.

This spring and summer have been so wet that the province issued a warning Wednesday that a second crest on the Assiniboine, expected in about a week, could be higher in western areas than the current one.

With high water coming in from Saskatchewan, the second crest could be higher in Brandon, the province's second-largest city, than the initial crest that had the city on alert last week.

It could even approach the 2011 crest that forced the evacuation of low-lying areas of Brandon, Emergency Measures Minister Steve Ashton said.

"I would say this is a moving forecast," Ashton said at the province's daily flood briefing in Winnipeg.

The second crest would have much less impact downstream near Portage La Prairie because other tributaries to the Assiniboine have started dropping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EY. City council grills auditors, but meeting devolves into name calling

Winnipeg city council got the chance to grill the auditors behind a damning audit into the city's last five years of real estate dealings at a special meeting Wednesday.

Mark Single, an auditor from EY, the authors of the report, told council the company stands by its methodology.

Single clarified the document was an audit, in response to claims by Mayor Sam Katz and others that it was actually just a review.

Single also defended his company's decision not to interview former CAO Phil Sheegl or representatives from Shindico, saying the audit was about city processes and not performance.

Acting CAO Deepak Joshi was also grilled over appraisal values of land at Parcel Four and the fact realty company Shindico represented the city and a buyer in the sale of a parkade. He also said there was no intent to deceive councillors in any way.

Joshi admitted councillors should have been told about the appraisal figures, but disputed that Shindico was representing the city in the parkade transaction.

Things degenerated late in the afternoon into name-calling and accusations of lying.

Coun. Justin Swandel called citizen David Sanders a "jerk" when he got up to speak as a delegate, and Katz accused Coun. Paula Havixbeck of lying when she said similar backroom deals were ongoing in other real estate transactions with the city.

Havixbeck apologized and withdrew the remark.

By the end of the meeting, numerous points of order were thrown across the floor of council. ELISHA DACEY AND BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Quoted

Coun. Justin Swandel called citizen David Sanders a "jerk" when he got up to speak as a delegate.

The city council special meeting degenerated late in the afternoon into name-calling and accusations of lying.

Exec policy committee

Not even The Wheels on the Bus? EPC passes no-singing rule

The City of Winnipeg's executive policy committee has passed a Transit by-law that will see singing and other "inappropriate" behaviour banned from their buses.

The by-law, which was approved by Executive Policy Committee on Wednesday, was part of an overall larger set of by-laws that include not loitering in transit shelters for more than 90 minutes, no spraying graffiti, no playing musical instruments, no firearms and definitely no peeing on a bus.

Doing any of these things could result in a $100 fine from the city.

The by-laws also allow for Winnipeg Police Cadets to ride on buses as extra security when needed.

The by-law now goes before city council. METRO

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Overdose. Alleged sex worker in court after Google exec dies on yacht

An alleged high-end prostitute accused of injecting heroin into a Google executive on his yacht in Santa Cruz and leaving him to die when he overdosed appeared in court on Wednesday on manslaughter and heroin charges.

Alix Tichelman, 26, in handcuffs and a red jumpsuit, did not enter a plea and was appointed a public defender. She is being held on $1.5-million bail.

Alix Tichelman
SANTA CRUZ POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police are also investigating Tichelman in connection with a similar incident in another state, Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Steve Clark said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Egging

Bieber gets two years' probation

Justin Bieber has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanour vandalism charge for throwing eggs at a home in his Calabasas neighbourhood, and he's been sentenced to two years' probation.

Bieber was also ordered to pay $80,900 in damages, complete five days of community labour and a 12-week anger-management program, and stay away from the victim and his family for two years.

The Grammy-nominated singer was not present for the Wednesday arraignment at Superior Court in Van Nuys, Los Angeles. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Anti-prostitution bill has major flaws, expert warns

Human rights issues. Adviser on Swedish anti-prostitution law, which Tories hope to emulate, says new bill may be unconstitutional

One of the architects of Sweden's anti-prostitution strategy — a model the Conservatives are trying to emulate — says the proposed new law is likely unconstitutional.

A provision of the Tory bill that still criminalizes prostitutes in some circumstances is also a violation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as international human rights obligations, lawyer Gunilla Ekberg said Wednesday.

Ekberg is a Canadian citizen who was an adviser for the Swedish government in the 1990s when it crafted a law that makes it illegal to be a pimp or a john, but not a prostitute.

The Harper government has tabled a similar bill in response to last year's decision by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Earlier, this week, Justice Minister Peter MacKay said he fully expects another challenge to the law, but he wouldn't say where it might be vulnerable.

Still, witness after witness, including Ekberg, sex workers, Manitoba's attorney general and a coalition of more than 200 legal experts, focused on the provision that still allows the police to arrest a prostitute under certain circumstances for communicating for the purpose of selling sex. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Critical

"It targets those who are victims of, first of all, a human rights violation, but also a crime."
Gunilla Ekberg

A sex trade worker is shown in downtown Vancouver. An expert says the federal Tories' draft law is likely unconstitutional. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Palestinian boy plays Wednesday in the rubble of a house destroyed a day earlier in an Israeli strike in the town of Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip.
KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel hits 200 Hamas targets

Gaza Strip. Israeli leaders warn ground invasion could be imminent

Israel stepped up its offensive on the Hamas-run Gaza Strip on Wednesday, pummeling scores of targets and killing at least 22 people.

The military said it struck about 200 Hamas targets on the second day of its offensive. Militants, however, continued to fire rocket salvos deep into Israeli territory, and Israel mobilized thousands of forces along the Gaza border ahead of a possible ground operation.

The fighting stepped up as Egypt, which often serves as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, said it was in contact with both sides to end the violence. It was the first indication since the offensive was launched on Tuesday that ceasefire efforts might be under way.

Israeli leaders signalled a weeks-long ground invasion could be quickly approaching

"Despite the fact it will be hard, complicated and costly, we will have to take over Gaza temporarily, for a few weeks, to cut off the strengthening of this terror army," Yuval Steinitz, Israel's intelligence minister, told Israel Radio. "If you ask my humble opinion, a significant operation like this is approaching."

Since the offensive began Tuesday, Israel has attacked at least 560 sites in Gaza, the military said. Militants have fired more than 160 rockets at Israel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocket strikes

The increasing range of the rockets from Gaza has disrupted life across a wide swath of southern and central Israel, where people have been forced to remain close to home and kindergartens and summer camps have been forced to close.

- Besides firing toward Israel's two largest population centres in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Hamas also fired one rocket that reached the northern Israeli city of Hadera for the first time, effectively putting the entire country under rocket range from the north and south. The city was struck in 2006 by missiles from Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Iraq sectarian killings?

50 bodies dumped south of Baghdad

Iraqi officials discovered 50 bodies, many of them blindfolded and with their hands bound, in an agricultural area outside a city south of Baghdad on Wednesday, raising concerns over a possible sectarian killing amid the battle against a Sunni insurgency.

The bodies, all of them with gunshot wounds, were found in the predominantly Shiite village of Khamissiya outside the city of Hillah, located some 95 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The dead were all men between the ages of 25 and 40, and it appeared they had been killed a few days earlier and then dumped in the remote area. Most had bullet wounds in either the head or the chest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian conflict

Rebels kill 14 in village: Reports

Syrian rebels rampaged through a Sunni village in the province of Hama Wednesday, firing indiscriminately at civilians and killing 14 people, including seven women, state media and opposition activists said.

State news agency SANA said an "armed terrorist group" was behind the dawn attack on the village of Khatab, located 10 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital.

Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights — which documents the violence in Syria through a network of activists on the ground — said the rebels accused the village's Sunni Muslim inhabitants of "cooperating with the criminal regime"in Damascus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NBA's No. 1 draft pick doesn't pick No. 1 sports brand

Andrew Wiggins. Canadian basketball phenom opts for underdog Adidas over powerhouse Nike

Andrew Wiggins will wear Adidas with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The No. 1 overall pick in the draft, Wiggins wore the apparel company's gear while starring last season for Kansas. He chose to stick with Adidas rather than sign with a rival such as Nike in what's being called "an unprecedented partnership."

The deal announced Wednesday is believed to be worth more than $2 million per year.

Twitter

"Been waiting for this day. Happy to be joining the @adidashoops fam!"

Andrew Wiggins, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2014 NBA draft, in a tweet about his new shoe deal

"Joining the Adidas family is a blessing and an honour and I am extremely excited for what lies ahead," Wiggins, from Vaughan, Ont., said in a statement.

Adidas owns a fraction of the marketplace at about three per cent, according to retail tracking firm SportsOnceSource, while Nike dominates at close to 95 per cent with help from its Jordan brand. But the move to sign Wiggins signals a bold move by the German company to build its basketball business around young, up-and-coming stars. Its NBA roster includes John Wall and Damian Lillard, for example, both first-time all-stars this past season.

The move also represents a level of comfort for Wiggins, who tweeted out a photo of himself Wednesday wearing an Adidas shirt and a KU cap. The Jayhawks have worn gear from Adidas since 2005, which means Wiggins wore their shoes and apparel during his only season in college.

"Been waiting for this day," Wiggins said in his tweet. "Happy to be joining the @adidashoops fam!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apparently, Sega is still around, and so is Ripley

This video game image provided by Sega shows the character Ellen Ripley, voiced by Sigourney Weaver, in a scene from Alien: Isolation. Weaver, who portrayed unflappable officer Ellen Ripley in the Alien film franchise, is reprising her role for the upcoming video game, set after the events of the original 1979 film. She says she picked up right where she left off in filmmaker Ridley Scott's masterful first instalment. SEGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Broke records

Brazil's epic defeat a GOAAAAAL! for social media

Germany's stunning 7-1 World Cup semifinal win over Brazil triggered record-breaking activity on social media. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 16,985.61 (+78.99)

IT'S IN REVELATIONS, PEOPLE!

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I don't want to alarm anybody, but the latest sign of the apocalypse is upon us: I made dinner, all by myself.

The ancient texts are clear about the unusual sights that will greet the final days of mankind: Rivers will run with blood, the sky will turn black, and John Mazerolle will make a nice beef stroganoff, served with red wine and a store-bought apple tart.

Behold! Tremble!

Preparing a meal might not seem like a cosmic event to you, but for a culi-nary like myself it was at the very least a moment of historical significance — up there with the fall of the Berlin Wall or that time Picard joined the Enterprise senior staff for their poker game.

For the first time in my life, I made an honest-to-goodness meal.

Like, with ingredients and measuring cups and everything. No misspelled food like X-Treem Kreem Cheez. No microwave. Not even a single package of powder to sully the fingertips.

What drove me to such a strange place? Well, I'd like to have children some day. And as much as I'd like to buy 10,000 boxes of Pizza Pops and say, "See you when you're 18!" I figure I should learn to make meals so that my kids can tell me how they'd rather starve than eat the disgusting garbage I make.

You know, like a normal family.

Cooking is such an unusual activity for me that when I called my dad to ask what makes a good corn-oil substitute I could hear his confused blinking over the phone. When the realization of what I was planning to do dawned on him, he panicked.

As far as he was concerned, I'd just said, "Hey Dad! Found a landmine at the beach and was planning to rip her open. Should I use a chisel or go right at 'er with the hammer?"

He wanted to know if my girlfriend would be around to help (i.e. put out fires), or if maybe I'd prefer to make Hamburger Helper, or have an apple.

If it had been a movie, he'd have appeared from the future covered in beef stock telling me not to make the dish, lest humanity be destroyed. It was all very encouraging.

But I forged on, and **learned a few important culinary tips** along the way. For instance:

* **Onions** come in at least two colours (yellow and white).
* There is **prepared mustard**, though I'm not sure what it knows that the other mustard doesn't.
* **Hot oil** applied liberally to your thumb will burn your thumb. Who knew?

And imagine my surprise when I learned that cooking in the kitchen was pretty fun. I was actually chuckling with glee over my creation, not unlike Dr. Frankenstein if he had made dinner.

So if there are any laggards like me in the reading audience, I say put your fears or embarrassment aside and make some beef stroganoff. Or even some other meals, presuming they exist.

If you don't do it for yourself, then do it because this could be your last meal. The End Times are upon us.

SHOPPING FOR AIR QUALITY

A cyclist passes buses and taxis in Oxford Street on Wednesday in London, England. Researchers have found that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide on Oxford Street are the worst on Earth. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

Oxford Street air dirtiest on Earth, scientists say

London, England's Mayor Boris Johnson is under pressure to take drastic action on air pollution, after scientists discovered that Oxford Street is now the most polluted street in the entire world.

The mayor has previously dismissed air pollution levels in London as "perfectly fine."

However, monitoring stations on London's Oxford Street have discovered levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) at up to 10 times the legal limit.

Scientists at King's College London said levels of the gas, caused by diesel vehicles, were now even higher than those found in Beijing. The toxic gas causes breathing difficulties and has been linked to increases in premature deaths and hospital admissions. POLITICS.CO.UK

Quoted

"To my knowledge this is the highest in the world in terms of both hourly and annual mean." David Carslaw, researcher

Why so high?

The problem with Oxford is the sheer number of diesel buses travelling (or, more likely, standing still with engines going) and that the street's a "canyon" — tall buildings set fairly near the road so fumes can't dissipate easily.

- Modern diesel engines emit more NO_2 than petrol, and London has been switching to diesel to lower CO_2 emissions.

LONDONIST.COM

METRO AUGMENTED REALITY

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metro AR

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 16 in Life and page 18 in Sports

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2. Hold your device over any image that has the AR logo near it. Make sure you wait for the green scanning bar to read the image!

3. Voilà! You should see the AR in action — like a video, slide show or mobile content experience. You can even move your phone away from the page and interact with the content directly on your device.

metro AR

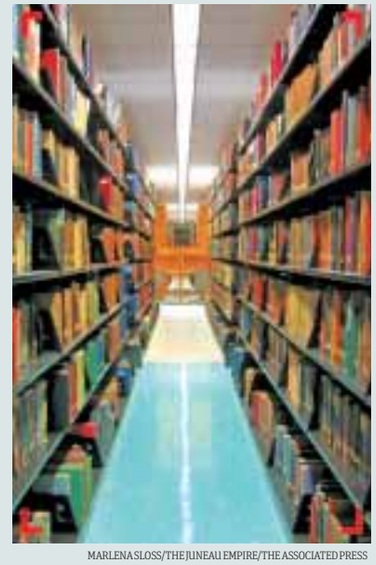
MetroTube

The penultimate book-sorting machine

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

It's becoming more and more difficult to resist a link that promises rare looks captured by a Phantom drone. Like this clip, shot inside the New York Public Library's massive Queens book-sorting machine that serves as a hub for requested transfers between the NYPL's many branches.

BUT! You can see we're in the nascent days of DIY drone documentary-making. The flight is a little wobbly, and the pilot seems more interested in dizzying POV adventure than capturing what's happening. But as mentioned, these videos and the glimpses they provide are getting tough to resist. (Nate Bolt/Vimeo)



MARLENA SLOSS/THE JUNEAU EMPIRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Van Etten strikes out on her own

Are We There.
Singer-songwriter took total creative control of her latest album and gave it a deeply personal touch

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

American singer-songwriter Sharon Van Etten plays the Winnipeg Folk Festival on Saturday and Sunday. DUSTIN CONDREN

Sharon Van Etten decided it was her turn to drive on Are We There.

The New Jersey-born singer-songwriter self-produced her fourth studio record, released in May via Jagjaguwar. Van Etten's previous album, 2012's Tramp, was produced by The National's Aaron Dessner and featured performances by Dessner and Beirut's Zach Condon.

"I'm a middle child so I have control issues, and on top of that, every record has kind of been my older brother taking me under his wing," says Van Etten, 33.

"I wouldn't take back any of the experiences I've had with anyone that I've worked with, and because of that I've been able to take what I learned from them and apply it, but I needed to prove to myself that I could do it on my own without the help of my brother."

However, Van Etten did receive a little recording help from New York producer Stewart Lerman, who got her into Electric Lady Studios to record a few piano parts. And not just any piano.

"They brought up this grand piano that was used on the album Imagine by John Lennon," Van Etten says.

"By that point we had tracked most of the record (at Hobo Sound Studios in Weehawken, N.J.), but I scurried to think of a couple songs to put the piano on, because I could. There were a couple of songs that wanted a little more piano anyway, like You Know Me Well. The super low sounding piano you hear on that is that piano."

Not only is Are We There self-produced, it's also very personal, with Van Etten baring her soul on such songs as Afraid of Nothing and Your Love is Killing Me.

The latter is especially raw, with Van Etten singing: "Break my legs so I won't walk to you/ Cut my tongue so I can't talk to you/Burn my skin so I can't feel you/ Stab my eyes so I can't see."

"There's a lot of heaviness on the record for sure," Van Etten says.

"I've always written from a personal space, it's just what I do naturally. Every song I write is going to have that weight. Your Love is Killing Me, it doesn't sound good on the surface, but it's pretty cathartic and uplifting for me."

Details

Sharon Van Etten plays the Winnipeg Folk Festival's Big Blue @ Night stage on Sunday at 8 p.m. Van Etten will also appear at festival workshop on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and an album signing on Saturday at 2:15 p.m. For a more info and tickets: winnipegfolkfestival.ca

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Getting in touch with his simian side

Monkey see, monkey do. Planet of the Apes motion capture man talks about living the ape life

Terry Notary has played everything from goblins in The Hobbit to a banshee in Avatar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terry Notary is Hollywood's human shape-shifter. In a blink, he can become an elf, an ape or almost any other moving creature.

An expert in motion-capture performance, he specializes in bringing non-human characters to life on screen. He's played goblins in The Hobbit, a Who in How the Grinch Stole Christmas and a winged, dragon-like banshee in Avatar.

In Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, opening Friday, Notary plays more than 100 primates. He also taught the film's stars and stuntmen how to 'ape'.

"He's like an ape Zen master," said director Matt Reeves. "He lives in every frame that has an ape in it."

Notary demonstrated his technique during a recent visit to the Hollywood dance studio he uses to prepare for films. The compact, muscular father of four visibly transforms as he describes how apes are gut-driven and grounded. His stomach softens, his neck and shoulders slouch, his lower jaw protrudes. His eyelids drop slightly as his eyes take on a present yet faraway quality.

He grunts and howls before springing from his chair and breaking into a quadruped run. He bounces around the empty studio on all fours, with "arm extensions" he developed allowing him to mimic ape-like movements. He stops suddenly, as though he's spotted a threat, and becomes even more animated, emitting loud wails of distress.

Then he's back to being human again to talk about the process. Notary aspired to compete in the Olympics while training as a gymnast at UCLA but then found work with Cirque du Soleil after graduating with a theatre degree. He came to Hollywood as a stuntman and from there, developed into a sought-after movement coach for motion-capture shots, where actors are wired and their movements captured electronically for the building of computer-generated imagery.

He created the lithe, long-limbed motions of the Na'vi in Avatar, taught the Silver Surfer how to ride in Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer and went ape in three films, starting with Tim Burton's Planet of the Apes in 2001. (He performed stunts in all as well.) "I'm a good observer of movement and behaviour," the 45-year-old said. "That's what my talent is, I think."

He begins with an image of the character. For imaginary creatures, he might picture objects from nature. When conceptualizing the Na'vi, for example, he thought of reeds swaying underwater, gracefully at ease with the energy around them. For a goblin, he thought of a piece of crumpled tin foil.

"If you throw it, it has hard edges," he said. "It's not going to be predictable. It's going to be edgy and sharp and not have any root."

To develop ape expertise, Notary hung out with a couple of chimps and spent a lot of time watching primates at the zoo, videotaping and studying their behaviour. "I just took every little video I could and dissected it into moments," he said. "And I just always watched the videos as though I was watching a person in an ape suit, playing an ape. It made me realize ... it's all in the subtleties."

Notary had six weeks to put the actors and stuntmen starring in Dawn of the Planet of the Apes through his ape training. The first step? Shed preconceptions and human conditioning and just "be." "It's not about doing anything, it's about undoing," he said. "If you can start to get back to the base, neutral animal that we are, you're an ape." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He's like an ape Zen master. He lives in every frame that has an ape in it."

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes director Matt Reeves on Terry Notary

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"The book is completely fiction, but I researched who these teens were, who was hanging out with who, and what they were into."

Maya Sloan, author of new book Rich Kids of Instagram
on how she created the novel

Rich Kids of Instagram get everything — even a book

Billion Dollar Babies.
Infamous Tumblr inspires novel based on the young and excessive

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro in New York City

Love 'em or hate 'em, you know who they are. Rich Kids of Instagram is a Tumblr that popped up two years ago filled with photos of teens unapologetically flaunting their extreme wealth.

Photos of $40,000 shopping sprees, out-of-control yacht parties and champagne bubble baths are just a sampling of what you'll find. Now, in the first Instagram-to-book deal, a novel based on these photos is coming out next week.

The creator of the Tumblr is anonymous, and he enlisted writer Maya Sloan — who ghostwrote Kendall and Kylie Jenner's new YA novel — to write the book, which centres around a Danish royal and his five friends.

"The 10 most frequent contributors to the site served as a basic resource of information in the beginning," Sloan says. "The book is completely fiction, but I researched who these teens were, who was hanging out with who, and what they were into."

Amazingly, Sloan was able to befriend a real European heir for research, as long as he remained anonymous. She says her husband, who is Danish, also helped provide a lot of insight into the main character.

Sloan says the teens who submit their photos to the site on Instagram and Tumblr have a love/hate relationship with it, but ultimately are obsessed with it and want to be on it.

"The creator gets tons of emails a day from people who want to be featured," she says. "When he doesn't post their photos, they start sending him angry emails. There was one kid who emailed saying he hated the site and never wanted to be on it again and then tried to get back on the site not too long after. The creator told him he wasn't going to put him on it because he made it clear about how he felt. Then, he sent the creator a picture of 'F–you' spelled out in pills."

When writing the book, Sloan's challenge was to humanize these types of teens, so they would be more than just a clique people laugh at.

"As I got to know people with extreme wealth, I did start to feel for them," she says. "There's a classic money-can't-buy-love thing going on. A lot of these kids are really lonely, feel unloved and are looking for a way to feel validated."

ALL PHOTOS TUMBLR: RICHKIDSOFINSTAGRAM

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The comedy gene runs in the family

Welcome to Sweden.
Amy Poehler's brother finds the funny side of his life in Scandinavia

Seated at a dinner table surrounded by his girlfriend's relatives on his first day in Sweden, Greg Poehler couldn't help thinking that his experience in culture shock might make a good television show or movie someday.

Flash-forward 14 years and that instinct proved true. The couple married, moved to Stockholm six years after that initial visit and have three children. And Amy Poehler's younger brother, 39, is now the writer, producer and star of NBC's summer comedy Welcome to Sweden, premiering Thursday (9 p.m. EDT).

The understated romantic comedy changes some details: Greg was a lawyer and his character, Bruce, manages money for stars like Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell; Bruce's in-laws are nuts and Greg's are normal. But many of the details, like the struggle with a language barrier, are straight from Poehler's life.

"When I was writing the show, I realized that my own life was a little bit too well-adjusted and happy for us to do a true story," he said. "No one wants to watch a show where a guy moves somewhere and everything goes great, the family is very supportive. It's good for your life. It's not good for a sitcom."

His goal was a show with equal appeal for both markets, one that would feel like an American show to Swedes and like a quirky Swedish show to Americans.

The first part worked. Poehler made the show primarily in Stockholm with Swedish actors for Swedish television, and the 10-episode season was considered a hit when it aired starting in March.

NBC had expressed interest in the idea prior to the series being made, but didn't agree to schedule it until after the full season successfully aired in Sweden. No matter what happens this summer on NBC, success in Sweden ensures a second season will be made.

The premiere features Poehler's sister as a self-absorbed star who fires Bruce as he tells her he's quitting his job to move to Sweden.

Greg Poehler had considered following Amy into show business until, as a 19-year-old, he visited for a weekend as she performed with a comedy troupe in Chicago. He was blown away by how good everyone was and figured he could never reach that level. Considering Amy's colleagues that weekend included Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert and Steve Carell, perhaps he was a little hard on himself.

He took another path, marrying a fellow New York lawyer with Swedish roots. An unscratched itch led him to try performing at a Stockholm comedy club two years ago. It went well, leading him to write the show.

Poehler acknowledges the benefits of having a successful sibling; he figures even Swedish TV producers gave him the benefit of the doubt knowing the bloodlines (Amy is an executive producer, and called on friends like Ferrell for cameos).

At the same time, it adds pressure. Welcome to Sweden relies more on character development than steady wisecracks, and more often than not his character is a straight man to others.

Asked when he finally felt at home in Sweden, Poehler said he hasn't yet. Even with support, there are challenges to fully assimilating into another culture, as immigrants of all generations know. Poehler said he didn't want to shy away from this in the series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All the best lines

"I cringe a little bit when I hear people say, 'He's not as funny as his sister' in this role. I gave her all the funny lines, as a good younger brother should."

Greg Poehler, writer, producer and star of NBC's summer comedy Welcome to Sweden, which features real-life sister Amy Poehler

Greg Poehler as Bruce Evans from the comedy series Welcome to Sweden.
CONTRIBUTED

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George Clooney ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Clooney slams 'dangerous' claims that fiancée's mother opposes marriage

Britain's Daily Mail newspaper apologized to George Clooney on Wednesday for alleging his fiancée's mother opposed the marriage on religious grounds — a story Clooney called both wrong and irresponsible.

Clooney is engaged to Beirut-born London lawyer Amal Alamuddin, whose father Ramzi belongs to a prominent Druse family. The Druse are adherents of a monotheistic religion based mainly in Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

Citing unnamed family "friends," the newspaper's MailOnline website reported this week that her mother, Baria Alamuddin, wanted her 36-year-old daughter to marry a Druse man. It said Amal Alamuddin risked being "cast out of the community" if she wed Clooney, and claimed several women had been murdered for not abiding by strict Druse rules.

Clooney called the story "completely fabricated."

In a statement issued to USA Today, Clooney said that "to exploit religious differences where none exist is at the very least negligent and more appropriately dangerous."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Would you let Courtney teach your preschoolers?

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

You know what your television needs more of? Courtney Love. The singer and loveable crazy-pants will be guest-starring on the next season of Sons of Anarchy, according to TVLine, playing a … preschool teacher.

I mean, sure. It's not like Love is a novice actor or anything, since she's done all right for herself in movies like The People vs. Larry Flynt, Man on the Moon and Sid and Nancy. Oh, and 200 Cigarettes, if anyone remembers that flick. But … a preschool teacher? All right, if you insist, Sons of Anarchy.

The seventh and final season of the show will also feature Marilyn Manson, so clearly they're working on a theme here.

Twitter

@DanaDelany
I have learned that mentioning abortion, gun control, climate change will lose you followers. And I'm forgetting the fourth....

@lenadunham
Ladies, some of you seem confused about how to keep a secret and I have a tip: just don't tell anyone.

@rickygervais
This won't be the first time that thousands of Germans will have to lie low in Brazil for a while for their own safety.

Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling

A baby Gosling? Blogosphere abuzz with pregnancy rumours

Hollywood's hottest couple may be expecting. OK! magazine reports that Eva Mendes is seven months pregnant with Ryan Gosling's baby, according to a source close to Mendes.

"She's been ready for motherhood for a while now and to be sharing this experience with Ryan is a dream come true for her," the insider tells the magazine.

Ironically, Gosling and Mendes met on the set of The Place Beyond The Pines, in which they played parents. They've been dating off and on for over three years. Neither has commented on the pregnancy, even though the blogosphere is starting to buzz with the news.

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Picture this: 30 degrees outside, a stressful day at work, an errand to run across town before your friends want to meet at the bar. You're already hot and sticky. The last thing you want is to make your outfit "evening appropriate" by piling on accessories in the back of a cab. We round up the must-have accessories that will dress you up in one simple, stylish step.

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

5 Mid-summer must-haves

Bun beautifier

A 5-minute wait for the subway can turn your perfectly styled hair into a frizz-fest. Get it off your neck while actually making your hair look good by pulling it up and a bun and securing it with a floral top knot holder. You'll look bohemian-cool in 2-minutes flat.

Top Knot Holder, $12
URBANOUTFITTERS.COM

Irresistible earrings

Jewelry that's a mix of punk and glam makes enough of a statement where you only need one piece. These earrings by Uribe are a little pricey, but we guarantee you'll get loads of compliments and since they're so simple, you'll wear them again and again.

Uribe Gold Earrings, $185.64
MY-WARDROBE.COM

Birkenstock Arizona Sandals, $120
SHOPBOP.COM

Bohemian Birks

You don't have to be into normcore to pull off Birkenstock – seriously! Pair these with a maxi or sundress and you'll be both comfortable and cute.

Stop-traffic sunnies

Stand out in the Ray-Ban wearing mass with these funky frames. This is the stuff street style photos are made of.

Quay Penelope Sunglasses, $47.
ASOS.COM

Sensational scrunchies

This is another life-saving hair accessory. To avoid looking like Kimmy off of Full House, opt for a bun instead of a ponytail. The colour and shimmer will make it the standout piece of your whole look.

Sequin Hair Scrunchie, $12
TOPSHOP.COM

Canadian street style

Spotted in: San Juan del Sur, NI

Name: Jessica

Age:21

Occupation: Bartender

What she's wearing:

Hunter boots, H&M shorts, Brandy Mellville shirt, Forever21 army jacket, Longchamp purse.

Her inspiration:

"Both Alexander Wang & Alexander McQueen inspire me. I like being comfortable; I'd say my style is a little grungy."

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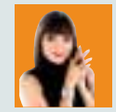

JEANNE SPACE
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@jeanne_beker: Beauties on parade @ShangriLATO #oasisatshangrila @VitaminASwim

Go ahead, lick your fingers. We won't tell

Sticky Coconut-Glazed Chicken Wings. These tasty bites perfectly balance sweet and heat.

"Who doesn't love a slightly sticky, sweet and spicy chicken wing?" asks Sasha Seymour in her book Coconut Every Day: Cooking with Nature's Miracle Superfood,

"A few of these served with some plain brown rice and kimchi coleslaw make a great meal, and you can substitute drumsticks and thighs if you prefer them over chicken wings for dinner."

1. Make the Marinade: In a large bowl, stir together coconut water and soy sauce. Add chicken wings, stirring to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 4 hours.

2. Make the Glaze: In a small bowl, combine tamari sauce, coconut sugar, coconut vinegar, and cayenne. Stir until well mixed.

3. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C) (or preheat grill to medium-low and lightly oil grill).

4. Remove wings from marinade and roast on a parchment-lined baking sheet (or grill), flipping and basting wings with glaze about 4 times, until wings are cooked, 35 to 40 minutes. Let rest for about 10 minutes before serving.

FROM COCONUT EVERY DAY: COOKING WITH NATURE'S MIRACLE SUPERFOOD. COPYRIGHT SASHA SEYMOUR, 2014. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF PENGUIN CANADA BOOKS INC.

This recipe serves two as a main course or four as an appetizer. KATHLEEN FINLAY

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) chicken wings

For the marinade

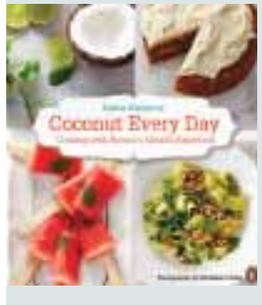
1 1/2 cups (375 ml) unsweetened coconut water
1/4 cup (60 ml) soy sauce (gluten-free, if required)

For the glaze

1/4 cup (60 ml) tamari soy sauce (gluten-free, if required)
2 tbsp (30 ml) coconut sugar
1 tsp (5 ml) coconut vinegar
1/2 tsp (2 ml) cayenne pepper

Cookbook of the Week

Meet nature's coolest superfood



Coconut is rich in healthy fats, high in fibre and low in carbohydrates. It grabs the spotlight in Sasha Seymour's Coconut Every Day. The book shows readers how to incorporate the superfood into 100 of their favourite everyday recipes. It features coconut in all its forms — water, milk, oil, gluten-free flour, sugar and more — in everything from salads and soups to main dishes and desserts. Among included recipes are Cauliflower Soup, Curried Chicken Salad, Shepherd's Pie, Coconut Cream Pie and more. METRO

Makeshift dining in tight quarters

Turn on a dine. Stylish options for a tiny condo

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

A reader asks: I am moving into a tiny condo and need occasional dining space that will seat 2-3 people. What are my options?

I suggest creating a multi-purpose area instead of dedicating space to a dining room that will rarely be used.

This will allow your dining space to do double or triple duty as a home office, an attractive display console or a storage area.

With a desk or console sitting against the wall, you can forgo hanging a light fixture and free up the centre of the room by not having to float a table in the middle of the space.

Instead of focusing on the centre of a dedicated dining space with a chandelier and rug, concentrate on the vertical wall of the dining area. A large mirror hanging over a desk or console table topped with potted orchids, and a decorative storage bench underneath creates an attractive vista to look at on a daily basis.

A vintage-style desk can double as a charming place for entertaining. Garment Factory Desk, $1300, RestorationHardware.com. RESTORATIONHARDWARE.COM

Slim pickins

Consider purchasing a slim desk or console to be used for occasional dining with guests.

- **When pulled out, it should be able to accommodate two to four people easily.**

Here are a few other ideas for maximizing a dining experience within your tiny condo:

Chairs

Consider using small-scale occasional chairs from your living room area as go-to dining chairs when needed.

There are also a lot of stackable dining chairs that can be stored in a closet until needed.

Purchase a few attractive outdoor chairs (often stackable) and bring them in from a balcony when needed.

Antiques

Like the look of antiques? There are many older furniture styles such as partner's desks, tilt-top tables and drop-leaf tables that can add old world charm yet survive in a small space. Blending antique looks within a modern apartment can make them look quite special.

Alternative options

Tray-style and tall end tables are an easy way to offer each guest their dining space while sitting in the dining or living spaces of your condo.

A library-inspired console can display books, plants and a laptop by day and seat dinner guests at night. Stanton Work Station, $600, bombay.ca. BOMBAY.CA

A saw-horse base in metal adds an industrial-chic look to a desk/dining table. Eiffel Desk, $800, urbanbarn.com. URBANBARN.COM

A tall side table offers up individual dining perches in the living room. VITTSJO stand table, $25, ikea.com. IKEA.COM

How to install a sliding storage unit on a garage ceiling

Clear away garage clutter with an easy-to-install overhead sliding storage unit. ISTOCK

DIY. Tidy a messy garage by building an overhead bunker for storage totes

Cleaning out a garage can be one of the most tedious household chores. But the simple solution to organizing the clutter might have gone right over your head. An easy-to-install, sliding storage unit packs equipment in a convenient overhead bunker, and can be constructed with basic building materials.

First, select a large, sturdy container, preferably a reinforced tote as the storage compartment. Building the storage unit will require 2x4s, plywood, a saw, a drill, a socket and ratchet set, a stud detector, and a level. Start by measuring the width of the tote's rim to determine how wide the rims of the sliding unit need to be. Measure and cut two sheets of plywood that are twice the width of the tote rim, plus another two inches to make room for a vertical 2x4 base. Centre the plywood pieces underneath two 2x4s, creating inside and outside edges that fit the tote rim. Cut plywood strips for the top of the 2x4s that are 2 to 3 inches wider than the bottom ones for added support. Ensure both pieces are centered, and fasten the frames together with two inch screws, spacing them evenly.

Use a stud detector to carefully mark support joists in the garage ceiling. Using a level, align the two pieces of the sliding frame on the ceiling. Measure and space them apart, so that the rims of the tote fit into the unit perfectly. Attach the shelf pieces to the ceiling with temporary screws, and check the placement of the frame by sliding the tote in. The rims of the tote should fit in as securely as possible, while still being able to slide. Drill four, evenly-spaced guiding holes through the frame pieces and into the joists, then use bolts to fasten it to the ceiling. Remove the temporary screws, and apply stopping screws at the ends of the unit to keep the container from falling out the other side. Be sure that the tote isn't too heavy (200 pounds is overcapacity), and that it can be reached from the garage floor.

Garage Gold

Get even more solutions for that stuff in your garage in a brand new season of Garage Gold, with back-to-back episodes Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

Tips to keep condo life classy

Mind your manners.
Basic balcony etiquette can help you keep the peace with neighbours

MELISSA DUNNE
Metro in Toronto

Brian and Ann McConvey pose for a photo on their condo balcony in Toronto's Liberty Village, as neighbour Scott Moore looks on. LIZ BROWN/METRO IN TORONTO

Like many Canadians, Scott Moore grew up in the suburbs.

Summers in suburbia tended to look like something out of a Canadian Tire flyer: The pesticide-green lawns were gigantic, the backyard fences tall and neighbours were close, but not *too* close.

Then, also like many Canadians, Moore grew up and fled the outskirts for the core.

A whopping one in eight households now live in a condo, according to Statistics Canada. There are concrete slabs and frosted glass. Neighbours are above, below, beside and across from each other — they are very, very close.

"I'm out here every day," says Moore of his balcony. He moved into his 14th-floor condo just in time for warm weather. "I barbecue and socialize out here. It feels like I'm not even in downtown Toronto."

There are reminders the 38-year-old lives in Canada's condo capital, though.

Ann McConvey, his next-door neighbour and fellow ex-suburbanite, poked her head around the glass balcony barrier before he even officially moved in and said hi.

After a brutal winter, McConvey, 44, her equally bubbly hubby, Brian, 51, and their sheltie, Fergus, 3, also soak up the sun on their Liberty Village balcony most days.

In a big city, relations between condo dwellers are not usually as warm as they are between the McConveys and Moore. Metro talked to an etiquette expert, who offered some tips to making sure it's only the humidity creating sticky situations on your balcony this summer.

Get to know thy neighbour

A hot day is the perfect time to break the ice, says Karen Cleveland, the Toronto-based author of mannersaresexy.com. So no need to act like there's no one on the other side of that balcony wall.

"Wave," advises the etiquette expert. "Introduce yourself."

Keeping up with the McConveys

Even if you don't know your neighbours' names, they've likely overheard you talking about your latest date, seen you sunning in your bikini and know if you're a clutterbug. You don't have to measure up to the McConveys and Moore, whose balconies look straight out of an Urban Barn catalogue — just keep it clean and tidy.

Sugar catches more flies than vinegar

Don't sweat dishing some dirt with your girls or hosting a dinner party outside. You can even play a few summer jams on your balcony so long as you keep the volume levels reasonable, says Cleveland.

"That's with a caveat," she notes. "Hopefully you and your neighbours have a similar taste in music, or it could go sideways fast."

If your neighbours are blasting Bryan Adams' Summer of '69 on repeat and you fear you may hurl their iPad off the balcony — knock on their door.

Cleveland advises asking noisy neighbours nicely, calmly and directly to keep it down.

Karen Cleveland CONTRIBUTED

Take in the larger view (from the top)

People typically do not enjoy having things drop and drip down on them, so before watering your plants and flowers get some liners for a "few pennies each" to catch the run-off, says Cleveland.

But when it comes to addressing a neighbour's faux pas, Moore adds that sometimes you have to choose your battles, such as when a cigarette butt comes flying down off a distant balcony in the dark of night. Residents can choose to play Sherlock on a bright July day, mapping wind currents and matching lipstick shades to narrow down the suspects. But "you'll never really know" where the cigarette came from, Moore says.

With only 75 official days of summer left, the suburbanite turned urbanite would rather spend his time taking in his stunning view of Lake Ontario.

Nightmare neighbours

Cities and condos have bylaws to regulate balcony behaviour, but enforcing those rules costs time and money. While most neighbours can work through conflicts on their own, some high-rise disputes make it all the way to our highest courts.

- In Vancouver, a vegetable magnate installed a hot tub, big-screen TV, and two speakers on his condo's large deck and balcony in 2010. The complaints soon started rolling in from his Yaletown neighbours. The case eventually made it to the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The party animal fought for his right to party, and lost. In 2012, the judge put a stop to the hot tub parties from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m., in accordance with the building's rules.
- In Toronto, a different kind of animal led to a neighbour war. The owner of a Yorkshire terrier would let the dog "relieve itself from time to time" on her second-floor condo balcony. The urine frequently dripped down to the first floor below. The neighbour complained. The case wound its way up to the Ontario Superior Court in 2011. The judge ruled the dog had to be removed from the unit permanently and the owner was ordered to pay $1,384.25 in cleaning fees and $806.65 in legal costs.

On the street: What's your balcony pet peeve?

"Construction. I open the door for Max; the noise is bothersome."

Maryam Amouzandeh with Max the dog, Toronto

"Garbage and all the stuff that's blowing around out there."

Rachael Moss, Toronto

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Impress your neighbours with these ideas: Scan the photo with your Metro News app to see balcony photos from readers.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Go on, show off

You can't make friends with a shabby balcony, so here are a few ideas to help you make a good impression on your neighbours.

1 Among foodies the Big Green Egg is the Cadillac of charcoal cookers. While most buildings don't allow the ceramic grill/smoker, that hasn't stopped condo dwellers from buying the, ahem, discrete Mini and Small varieties for balconies, say the Big Green Egg people. Prices upon request. Go to biggreenegg.ca to locate a dealer.

2 Trying to impress the attractive neighbour across the way with your cocktail-making skills? This Sumatra Serving Trolley from Urban Barn should help paint the picture of a sophisticated (and ready-to-mingle) urbanite. $229. Go to urbanbarn.com to find a store near you.

3 No, you don't have a lawn to stick a pair of plastic pink flamingoes in. Don't dwell on your lack of a lawn, instead put the kitschy couple from Canadian Tire in one of your urban garden planters. $14.99. Go to canadiantire.ca to find a store close by.

NHL

Schneider re-signs with the Devils

The New Jersey Devils have signed goaltender Cory Schneider to a seven-year, $42-million contract extension.

Schneider was acquired by the Devils from the Vancouver Canucks at the NHL draft in June 2013.

He had a 16-15-12 record in 45 games with New Jersey last season and posted a 1.97 goals-against average, third best in the NHL.

The 28-year-old Schneider would have been an unrestricted free agent at the end of the 2014-15 season.

Last week, the Devils had signed veteran Scott Clemmensen to be Schneider's backup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penguins

Crosby to have surgery: Reports

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is reportedly scheduled to have arthroscopic surgery on his right wrist within the next few days.

Citing an unnamed source, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported the surgery is to repair damage that impeded his performance in the post-season.

The 2014 Hart Trophy winner is not expected to miss any time next season, according to the report.

The newspaper added that Crosby decided to have the operation only after therapy failed to correct the problem.

Crosby consistently denied during and after the playoffs that he was playing injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greaves' injury is a headache for O'Shea

Several weeks out.
Anderson also out, Leggett is uncertain and Howard comes in as an import

Winnipeg coach Mike O'Shea talks to his players during their game against the Toronto Argonauts at Investors Group Field, on June 26. GETTY IMAGES FILE

The loss of offensive lineman Chris Greaves is just one of the injuries forcing the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to make lineup changes for Friday night's game against the Montreal Alouettes.

"This isn't really the week you want to lose Chris Greaves," fellow lineman Glenn January said Wednesday after practice.

Greaves is expected to miss several weeks after suffering a knee injury in last week's 36-28 win over the Ottawa Redblacks. Cordaro Howard will replace the veteran lineman, which has other implications for coach Mike O'Shea since Howard is an import and Greaves is a Canadian.

"Whenever you play a team like this that runs a lot of different games and blitzes you want to have a guy that you've had a lot of experience with," January added. "But Cordaro's done a good job making sure that he's in the film room ... when we're getting some extra time in and making sure we understand what we need to do."

O'Shea gives a lot of respect to Montreal's defence and so does quarterback Drew Willy.

"They like to bring pressure, they keep on coming and coming and coming, they're relentless ... (linebacker) Chip Cox is defensive player of the year (for 2013) but they've got a lot of good players," said O'Shea.

Injuries aren't helping in the Bombers' pursuit of a third win.

Defensive lineman Zach Anderson definitely won't be going to Montreal, O'Shea said. Safety Moe Leggett's status is uncertain - Johnny Sears lined up there during Wednesday's practice - and hurting wide receiver Aaron Kelly will be going but how much he'll play is a question mark. The team is taking along Canadian Brett Carter as a backup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Week 3 pick

Blue Bombers at Alouettes, 6 p.m. Friday (TSN)

Pick: Montreal.

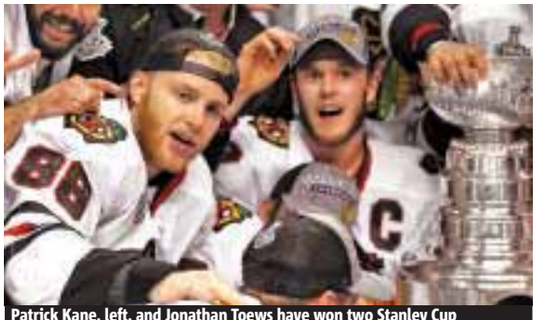
Nic Grigsby has been quite a find for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The five-foot-11, 195-pound running back has played a big role in Winnipeg opening the season 2-0. The speedy Grigsby has given new starter Drew Willy a valuable weapon as opposing defences must respect the Bombers' ground attack. Willy is second among CFL passers with 615 yards.

The Alouettes will look to take advantage of an inexperienced starter on the road with his new club for the first time and if they press Willy, that would diminish the impact of the Bombers' run game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blackhawks lock up Kane and Toews


Patrick Kane, left, and Jonathan Toews have won two Stanley Cup championships together in Chicago. GETTY IMAGES FILE

This was a no-brainer from start to finish. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane wanted to stay in Chicago and the Blackhawks wanted to keep the high-scoring forwards in the only NHL uniform they have ever known.

All that was left was crunching the numbers on two of the biggest contracts in franchise history.

The Blackhawks announced Wednesday they had reached eight-year extensions with two of their top performers in a long run of success that includes Stanley Cup titles in 2010 and 2013. Toews and Kane led Chicago back to the Western Conference final this year, where it lost to the eventual champion Los Angeles Kings.

Massive deals

$84M

Both contracts are worth $84 million for an average annual value of $10.5 million, according to a person familiar with the deals.

General manager Stan Bowman said all along that the extensions were his biggest off-season priority, and it didn't take very long to reach the agreements with Pat Brisson, who represents both players. Toews and Kane each have one year left on their five-year extensions from December 2009, and July 1 was the first day they could sign new deals.

"There's nothing we want more as players than to continue to win Stanley Cups for the best hockey fans on the planet," Toews said in a statement released by the team.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina crushes Oranje hopes

World Cup final set.
La Albiceleste to take on Germany after winning semifinal match on penalty kicks

Semifinal

Argentina	Netherlands
0 (4)	0 (2)

The World Cup's second semifinal was supposed to put the silky skills of Lionel Messi and Arjen Robben in the spotlight. Instead, a goalkeeper and two rock-solid defences stole the show.

Argentina goalie Sergio Romero saved two penalties Wednesday to send Argentina into the World Cup final with a 4-2 shootout win over the Netherlands after tough defending and a lack of creative spark from either team consigned the match to a 0-0 stalemate.

In a twist of fate, Romero credited Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal with helping launch his career when he arrived as an inexperienced youngster at AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league.

"I will be forever grateful to the coach for helping me out in a country that is so different from ours," Romero said.

A day after Germany lit up the World Cup with its clinical 7-1 destruction of host Brazil, the Dutch and Argentines could not manage a goal between them in 120 minutes before the shootout.

Messi, widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, will have to play far better in Sunday's final at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium if he is to engineer a win over the powerful German team. The Barcelona star was muted throughout the match and extra time, rarely managing to shake off his markers.

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Scan the image with the Metro News app to view more images of Wednesday's semifinal.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

metro AR

At the Itaquerao Stadium, he was overshadowed by his goalkeeper and the man he replaced as Argentina captain, Javier Mascherano, who bossed the midfield for his team the way surprise starter Nigel de Jong did for the Dutch.

When Robben looked like deciding the match in stoppage time, Mascherano's perfectly timed sliding tackle blocked his shot at the near post.

Romero — thought to be a weak link for Argentina and not even a starter for his Monaco club most of last season — had almost nothing to do during the match, but blocked penalties by Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder in the shootout. For Argentina, Messi, Ezequiel Garay, Sergio Aguero and Maxi Rodriguez all converted their spot kicks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lionel Messi of Argentina celebrates defeating the Netherlands on Wednesday in Sao Paulo, Brazil. CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

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"Number one job site" based on five-month average online job postings for period ending May 31, 2014. Comparison between Workopolis and all other major paid online job boards. Does not include online classified sites or job posting aggregator sites. Statistics provided by WANTED Technologies. © 2014 Workopolis.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Steer clear of others' feuds today because if you get involved, you will regret it over the weekend. There are rights and wrongs on both sides.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You like things to be in their proper place but some people enjoy making a mess to annoy you. You know who they are. Stay out of their way today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Try not to come across as too assertive or aggressive. A lot over the next few days will depend on your ability to meet others halfway, especially in areas where money at stake.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Some things happen whether we like it or not and the approaching full moon is sure to highlight that. Things could, of course, be worse, so smile.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You love your freedom but you have responsibilities like everyone else and over the next few days you will have to do your duty. Social activities will have to take second place.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There are times when you wonder if certain people are really on your side and it may tempt you to go it alone. But that is not a good idea. You are going to need allies.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of power likes you but if you take that as a sign that you can do as you please, you're sadly mistaken.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is no point making a fuss today, not even if you can prove you have been hard done by. Sometimes we have to take what we're given and make the best of it. It's one of those times.

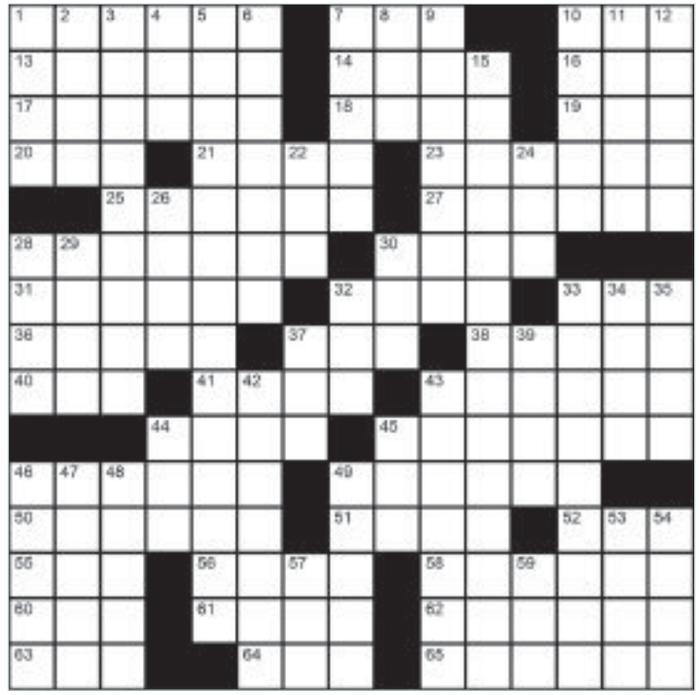
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This should be a lucky day but a lot will depend on common sense, especially where money is concerned. Put your interests first but be aware that your interests and others' are similar.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Although the approaching full moon is making you anxious everything will turn out right in the end. The so-called "bad" things that happen are challenges that help you grow.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't argue with people who clearly do not know what they are talking about. Over the next 24 hours, focus on your work, your family and your ambitions.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
With the Sun and Jupiter moving through the most dynamic area of your chart there is precious little you can't do, but you'll do it better as part of a team.

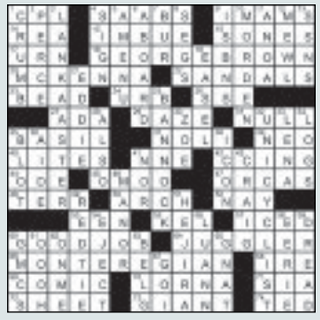
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Fare from Margaret Atwood and Mordecai Richler
7. Mr. Carrey
10. Undergarment, commonly
13. Make more money, get _ __
14. Some: 2 wds.
16. CD-__
17. "Stick to Your __" by Maestro Fresh Wes
18. Lettered-land 'til 1991
19. Classic range cooker company
20. Old English letter
21. Reclined
23. __ XM Canada Inc. (Satellite radio)
25. Feasible
27. Apple songs
28. Saliva
30. Blood carrier
31. "Let me check into that...": 2 wds.
32. Notify of risk
33. Boxing blow
36. Soup or __ (Restaurant option)
37. Mr. Aykroyd
38. Offenbach ballet, __ Parisienne
40. Sault __. Marie, ON
41. Emptiness
43. __ lava
44. Garish
45. Gives
46. Meteorite __ site
49. Tiny, cute-style
50. __ tunnel syndrome
51. Lion's share
52. Puny path
55. Iron __
56. Lightbulb locale
58. Doug and the Slugs hit: 2 wds.
60. Assembled
61. Armoured police team letters
62. Prevail
63. Bambi's aunt
64. Dodgy
65. 1980s President

Down
1. Give in
2. Desert's climate
3. Song by part-Canadian band The Lovin' Spoonful: "__ Cats"
4. Gladiator's 52
5. When all the music is stripped away from a track leaving only singing, that's known as what?: 2 wds.
6. Well-grounded, as a theory
7. Coldplay song ...en francais
8. Possibilities
9. Edmonton-born hockey great Mark
10. Cranium's content
11. Rapscallion
12. Collect
15. Prehistoric rock art site in Alberta, __-__-__ Provincial Park
22. Quebec: __ de Montreal
24. Campaign
26. "__ _ sign!"
28. k.d. lang and the __ Boom Bang
29. Dish of the day, __ du jour
30. Bran 3000 connector
32. Bundle of bills
33. Lively wartime dance style
34. To _ __ (Just right)
35. Mr. Mulroney's
37. Carried out
39. Jai's sporty friend
42. Felons
43. 2009 Lady Gaga album: 'The Fame __'
44. Swimmer's length
45. __ volente (God willing)
46. "_ __ in peace."
47. Edmonton-born singer/songwriter Ms. Ord
48. __-_-porter (Ready-to-wear)
49. Not full
53. Ms. Reid
54. Shangri-la
57. Seasickness, __ de mer
59. Harem room

Yesterday's Crossword

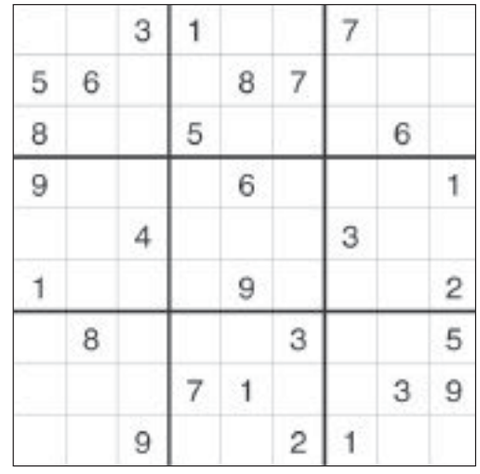


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

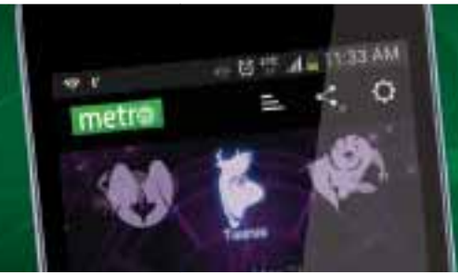
How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	3	2	4	7	9	1	6
2	1	4	6	9	8	5	3	7
7	9	6	3	1	5	8	4	2
5	2	1	4	3	6	7	9	8
6	4	7	8	5	9	1	2	3
9	3	8	1	7	2	4	6	5
1	6	2	5	8	4	3	7	9
4	8	9	7	6	3	2	5	1
3	7	5	9	2	1	6	8	4

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE:
Neptune is suggesting that now may be the perfect time to get the Metro News App



metro
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The fact is, it doesn't matter what you choose. All beverage containers are recyclable, regardless of what's inside. So whether it's a bottle, can, carton or juice box, be sure to drop it in a blue bin after you're done.

Enjoy it. Recycle it.